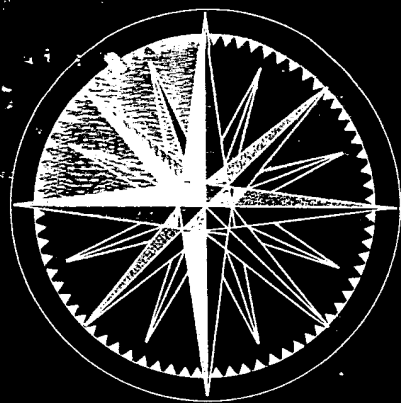


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# WEEKLY SUMMARY

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE

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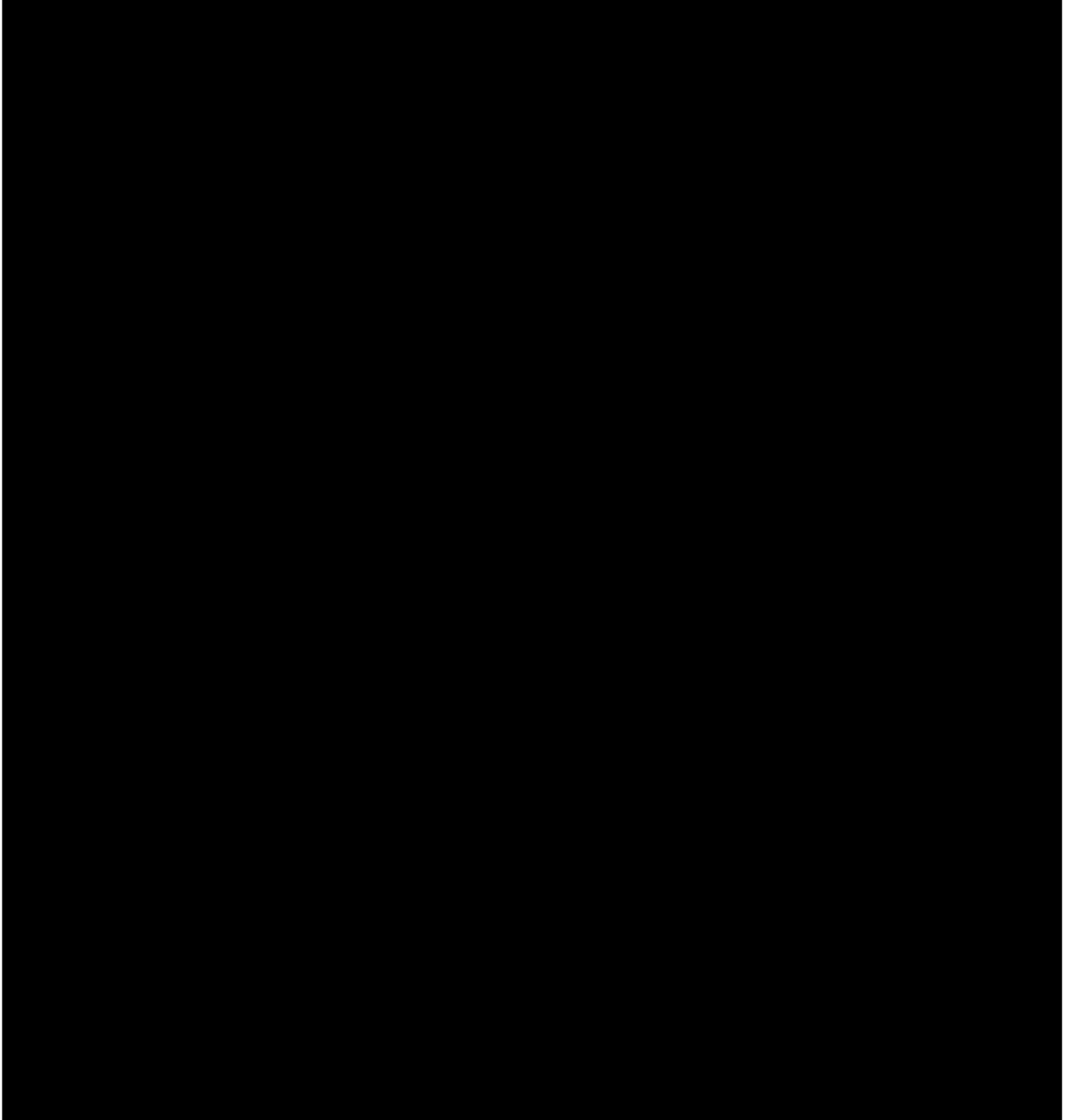
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(Information as of 1200 EDT, 21 May 1964)



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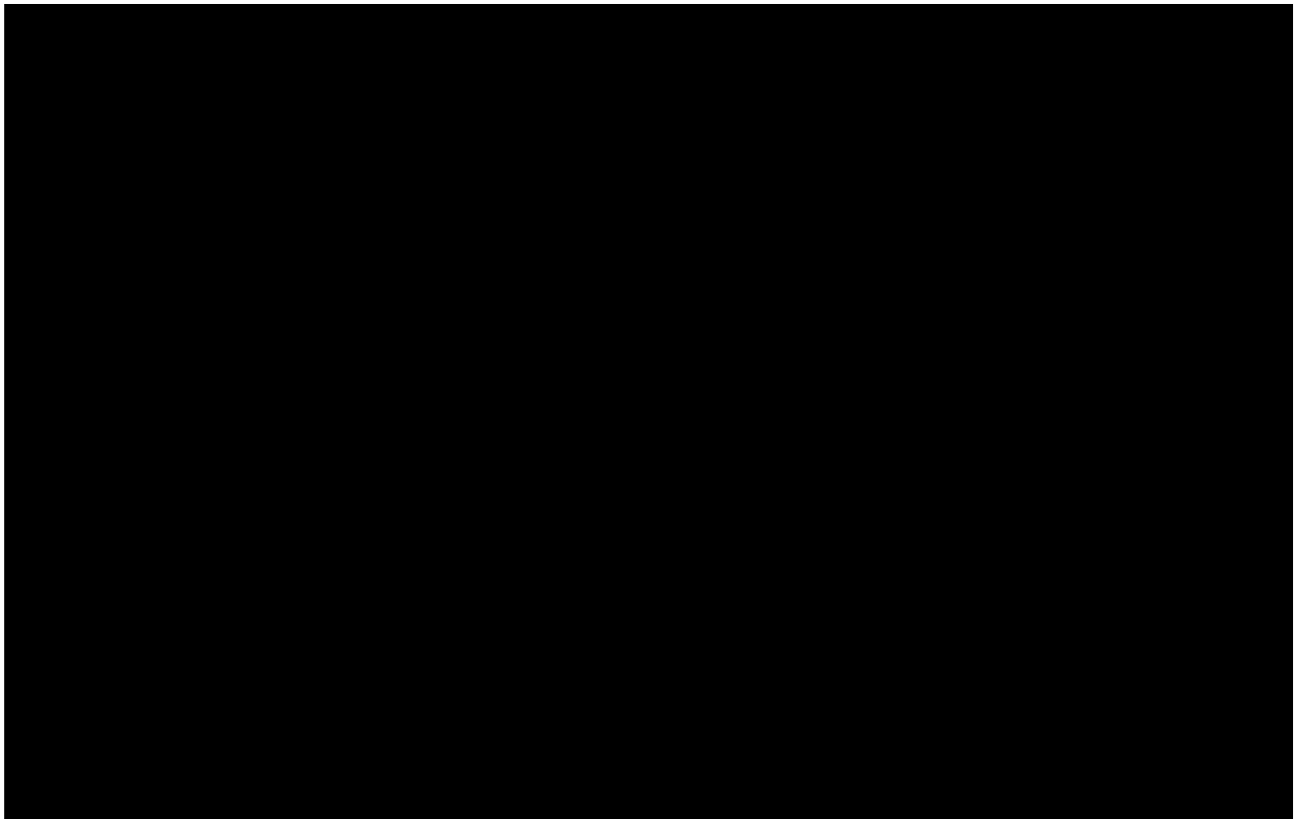
22 May 64

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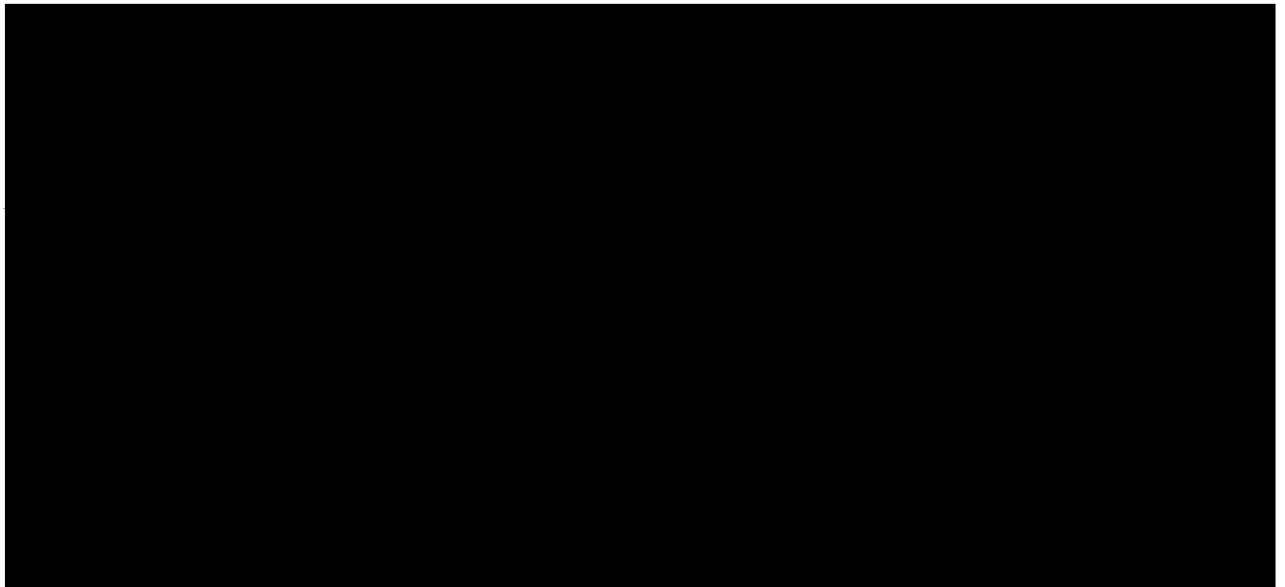
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PROSPECT OF NEW POLITICAL-RELIGIOUS TENSIONS IN LEBANON

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If President Shihab sticks to his decision not to seek re-election, an open race for the presidency could once again arouse the kind of political-religious factionalism that brought on the 1958 civil war.



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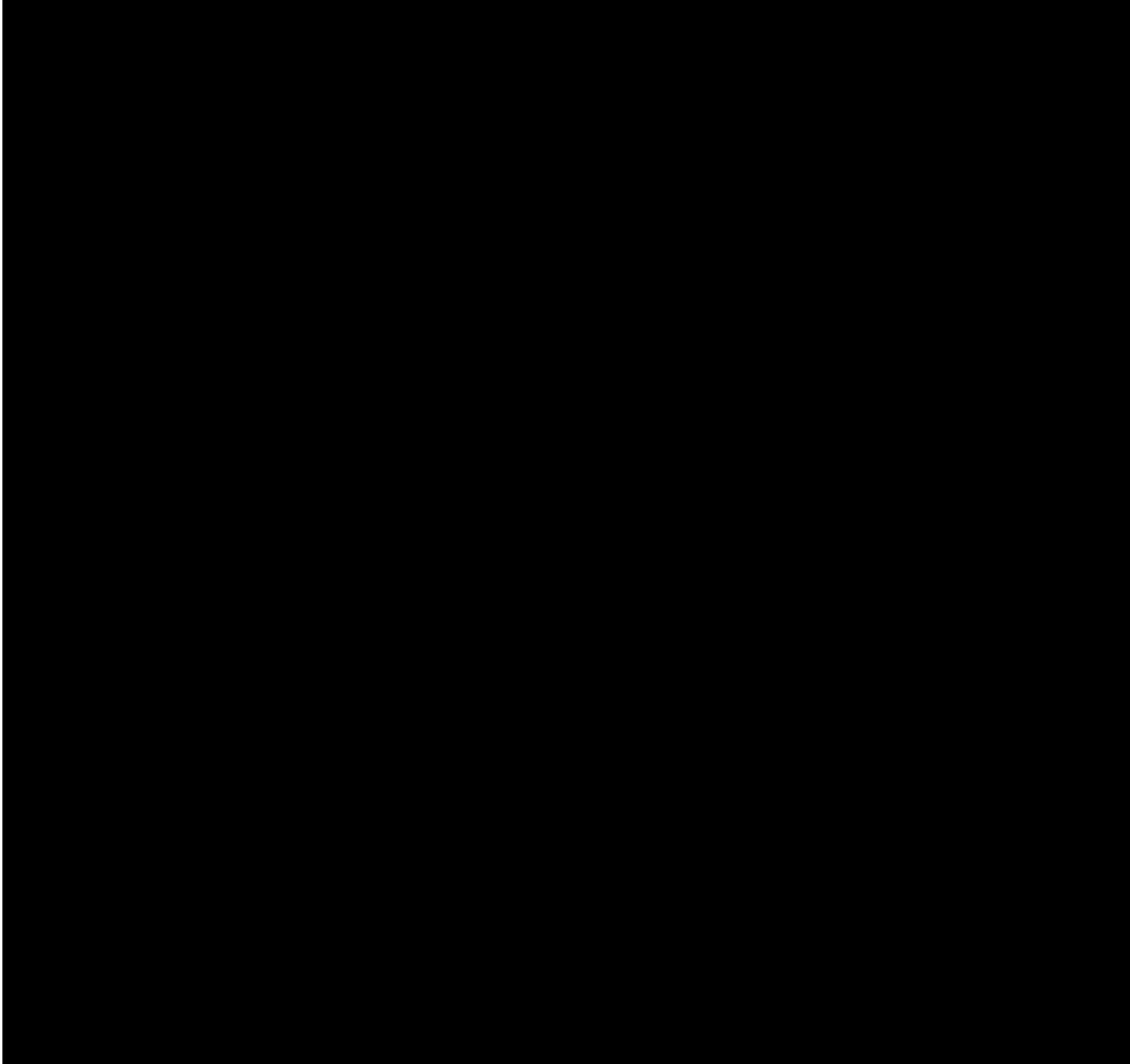
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Asia-Africa


PROSPECT OF NEW POLITICAL-RELIGIOUS TENSIONS IN LEBANON

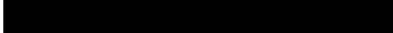
Lebanon's President Shihab has served notice that he will not stand for re-election this year. His decision, if he adheres to it, will result in an open race for the presidency which could once again embroil the country in a political-religious struggle like that which brought on the civil war six years ago.


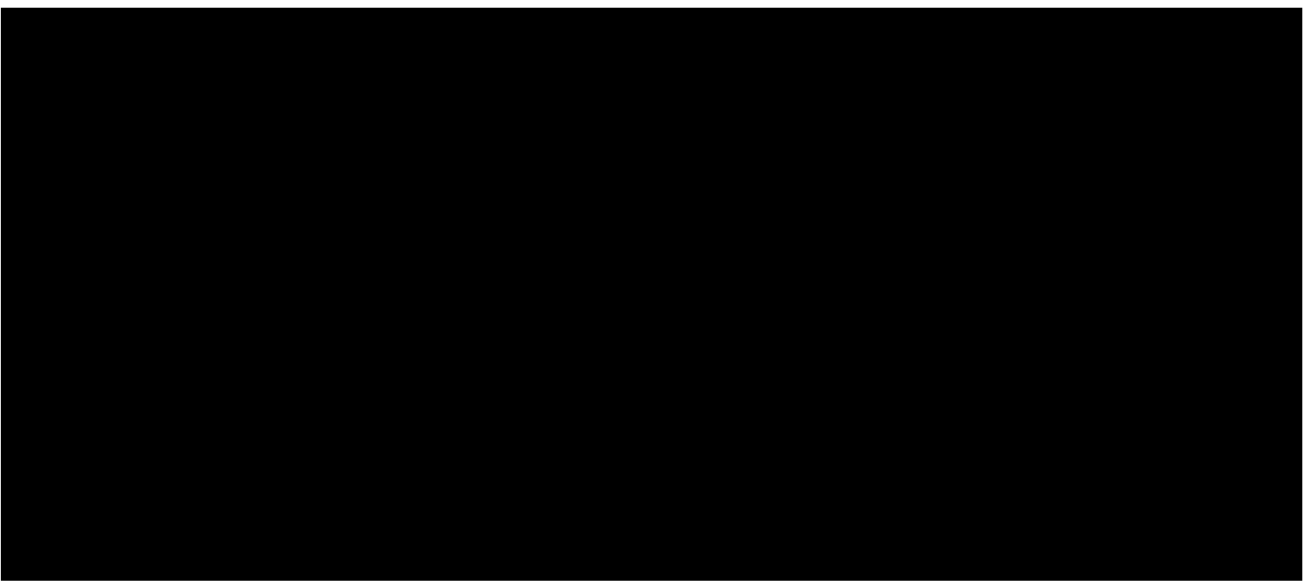
By an unwritten agreement designed to prevent religious strife, Lebanese presidents are Maronite Christians, the prime ministers are Sunni Muslims, and smaller religious groups hold other top state offices. Prime Minister Uwayni and about 50 members of parliament had urged Shihab to accept a second term, as they have no other readily acceptable candidate. The new parliament which must elect the next president before 23 August, would have to amend Lebanon's constitution to permit

Shihab to succeed himself or to extend his present term.

Egypt's interest in the situation further complicates the picture. Nasir is satisfied with Shihab and worried that anti-Nasir elements may win the presidency.



 has already begun to sharpen Christian-Muslim antagonism. Former President Chamoun, Maronite Patriarch Maushi, and several other prominent Christians oppose Shihab's re-election. They claim the government exerted influence to defeat Chamoun and other prominent anti-Shihab Christians in the recent parliamentary elections.

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